"IN WAR, TRUTH IS THE FIRST CASUALTY" -Aeschylus

The 1st Casualty

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VIETNAMESE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

All men are created equal, they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

ODYSSEY FOR PEACE

ODYSSEY FOR

As the early evening sun streamed through the windows of the DRV Embassy in Moscow, it fell upon two NVA nurses. In the hushed silence of the banquet room, they were singing a hauntingly-beautiful song about the hazards and rewards of mending the bodies and clothes of wounded liberation soldiers. One of the women was incredibly lovely, her long black hair framing high cheekbones and huge warm eyes. The other women had no face. It had been completely burned away by American napalm. The twin sisters were holding hands tightly and singing with hands held high. I was crying.

In the city square of Bologna, 10,000 people stood quietly on the cobblestones for over 3 hours hours. At least half were older people, many of whom had been partisans during WWII. As the program continued many wept openly, and no one left. And at the conclusion, the people exploded with applause. They pressed forward to shake hands, to touch, to embrace and be embraced. A woman offered a baby to be kissed. An old man kept crying, "Thank you, thank you." A policeman with tears running down his cheeks tore off his badge and pressed it into my hands so tightly it cut the skin.

The sound of traffic on Georges Mandel Avenue faded into the background as Mr. Vo Anh Minh introduced us to members of the permanent PRG delegation to the Paris Peace Talks. On the wall of the second floor reception room of the PRG Information Bureau were beautiful paintings from Vietnam, and on the coffee table was a small vase made from the aluminum of a U.S. Phantom jet. "This is a copy of our new 7-Point Peace Plan," Mr. Minh said, "We want to go over it with you in detail." And after over two hours of note-taking and discussion, I knew that the 7-Point Plan was the single most important issue facing the world today.

These are only 3 experiences out of a month-long European speaking tour recently undertaken by 6 American veterans of the Indochina War. We began our trip as rather unassuming participants in the International Commission of Inquiry into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina. We six vets (Kenneth Campbell of Philadelphia, Pa; Nathan Hale of Coatesville, Pa; Randy Floyd of Arlington, Texas; Danny Notley of St. Paul, Minn; Bart Osborn of Washington, D.C.; and myself), represented the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, and were originally scheduled to testify in Oslo and then return directly to the States. But our testimony led to invitations from other countries, and before we knew it, our 5 days in Norway turned into a month-long European "Odyssey for Peace" on behalf of the U.S. veterans anti-war movement.

Our travels took us to the Soviet Union, Finland, Norway, England, France, and Italy. In all these countries we spoke formally and informally with government officials, students, workers, and of course, the media. And although we went to Oslo with prepared testimony on U.S. War Crimes in Indochina, our discussions became more and more political and personal as the trip progressed.

Generally speaking, our experiences can be broken down into three categories: Discussions with the Indochinese; escapades with U.S. agents (and their counterparts); and encounters with the Europeans.

For all of us, the most moving involvement came as a result of our intimate contact with the Indochinese delegations to the Oslo conference. For over a week, in 3 different countries, we traveled, ate, and met with these delegations. It was our first encounter with "the enemy" since our tour in Vietnam, and at the outset we veterans were uncomfortable and tense. The Indochinese delegations represented a microcosm of the liberation fighters, and thus included women and children. Some of the Asians were scarred or disabled as a result of the war, and that made it even more difficult for us. But from the outset, the delegations neither took advantage of their injuries nor exploited our guilt. Rather, they talked of friendship and the beauty of their country. They were more poetic than diplomatic, and it wasn't long before we were exchanging ideas quite freely. It was hard not to show emotion when the young man I borrowed a comb from casually mentioned that it was made from a downed Phantom jet. It makes me wonder what kind of war this is when I can feel bad and good about using that comb, even though I know it probably cost an American life. It would have been so much easier if the Indochinese had hated us--but they refused to do so, thereby forcing us to deal with them not as ex-adversaries, but as human beings. Throughout military training, we were all taught that Asians were "gooks," "slopes," "dinks"; some kind of sub-human creature that is godless, gutless, and emotionless. And although most GI's don't swallow that line completely, believing it just a little makes it possible to establish and maintain a good body count (not to mention excusing personal participation in all the My Lai's, big and small). But our involvement with the Indochinese destroyed forever any doubts we may have had about their "humanism", for they are the most gentle, beautiful people we have ever met. The Pentagon genius who predicted the U.S. would defeat the NLF in 3 years had obviously never met an Indochinese guerilla. Not only are they gentle and beautiful, but they are also totally dedicated to the the liberation of their country. And we needed only a few hours of conversation with them to realize that the only way the liberation movement could ever be destroyed would be to impose a "Carthagenian Peace" on them. As fighters they are stoic, determined, and patient. As one young soldier told me, "China has come and gone, Japan and France have come and gone, soon the U.S. will have come and gone. And as ever, Vietnam remains." When we parted at the airport, with the Asians returning to the front lines of a war we only spent a year in, we both felt a great loss. We had become friends, despite the fact that the American government has decreed we must be enemies. And our friendship with our Indochinese brothers and sisters has much more of a basis for understanding than does our relationship with the U.S. war society. None of us will ever again kill another person merely because our government orders us to.

As our small group of veterans traveled from country to country, we always had company in the form of U.S. agents. Why they were lurking about is quite unclear, since everything we did was public. But lurk they did. Our first encounter came in a hotel lobby in Oslo, when we were approached by a clean-cut type wearing GI glasses and military low-quarter shoes. He began casually inquiring about our ac-

ODDYSSEY, cont.p.8

S.O.S. STOP OUR SHIP

The USS Coral Sea is a naval Attack Carrier. It has only one mission. To destroy. To destroy with its 3" guns. To destroy with its 5" guns. To destroy with its 85 fighter/bombers. To destroy as much as possible with its 6½ million pounds of shells, rockets. bombs and napalm.

To accomplish this mission of destruction requires the coordination and cooperation of 4200 crewmen, which in the past has been no problem. But the past is not the present. The crewmen now ask the questions that can't be answered. And a great percentage of the crew of the Coral Sea reject the Indochina War and the military "justification" for it.

The "Stop Our Ship" movement has no precedent in U.S. naval history (except the recent "Keep the Constellation Home" campaign), but today's anti-war GIs care little for precedent. They are more concerned with finding and implementing ways to <u>legally</u> subvert a criminal and racist military war policy.

Last August, the Coral Sea was ordered to Vietnam. Once there, it was to take up a position on "Yankee Station" in the Tonkin Gulf, and begin dealing out death with its planes. Most of the targets would be civilian hamlets in Cambodia, Laos, and N. Vietnam.

But there was one problem. Many of the crew did not want to go. About September 20th, a "Stop Our Ship" petition began circulating among the crew. The SOS movement began as the Coral Sea sailors response to the USS Constellation's delayed departure from San Diego (there, a mostly civilian-based "Keep the Connie Home" campaign succeeded in passing a referendum in which a majority of the local residents polled wanted to prohibit the carriers departure for S.E. Asia. Several sailors who sought sanctuary in the city were forcibly returned to the ship by chopper, but the movement to stop all giant war ships had been born).

Once Coral Sea sailors began to push the SOS campaign, they came under fire. Those considered leaders were transferred off the ship, and the rest were told to "move on" whenever they were found rapping with other crew members.

Lifers ripped SOS buttons off supporters, and a right-wing group called SOB (Sail Our Boat) put out a letter entitled "Love Our Country" accusing SOS supporters of being disloyal, aiding the enemy, and not wanting to provide air cover for US ground forces in Vietnam.

Yet despite harrasment, brig confinement, alleged beatings, and some administrative discharges, the petition remained around long enough to be signed by over ¼ of the crew. During the final shakedown cruise, crew members formed a human peace symbol on the deck as the ship sailed out of San Francisco Bay under the Golden Gate Bridge. Men in the brig went on a hunger strike. Others went on sick call. Some simply refused to work. And four officers resigned their commissions. When the ship returned from the shakedown cruise on October 21, over 200 civilian supporters greeted the SOS sailors as they came ashore.

By now, a great deal of support had been generated for the SOS movement. The Berkeley City Council voted to provide official sanctuary for Coral Sea crew members who didn't want to participate in the war. Many churches and organizations offered their help.

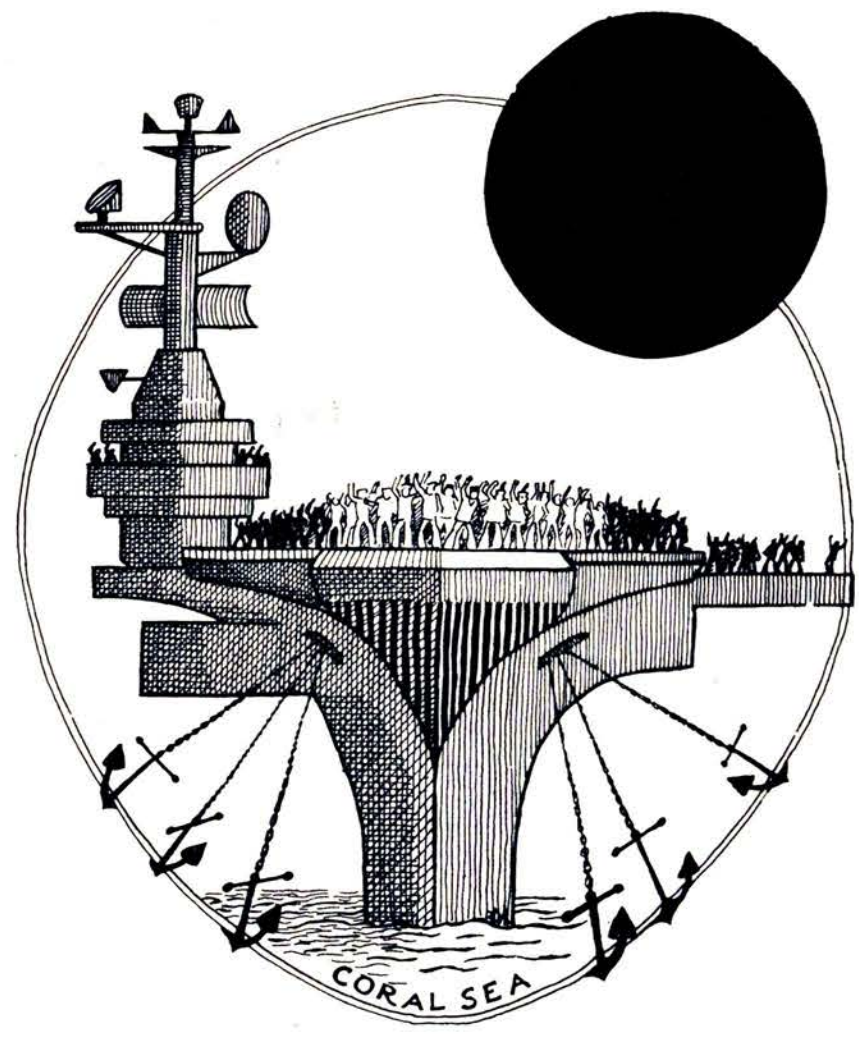
But on November 12, the Coral Sea sailed for Vietnam. This departure (like that of the USS Constellation) was delayed by a demonstration of over 1500 SOS supporters who jammed the roads and dock areas around the ship. Unofficial reports indicate that 279 sailors failed to show up for duty.

But the SOS movement still lives on the Coral Sea. Since the ship sailed, there have been numerous "accidents", work stoppages, demonstrations, and continued resistance to carry out the war orders.

On November 22, the Coral Sea pulled into Hawaii. Despite Admiral Zumwalt's "Z-Gram" to the contrary, the ship's Captain William Harris ordered "military haircuts" for the whole crew. That night, over 500 sailors were entertained by the FTA Show. On November 26, the Coral Sea departed for Subic Bay, minus 50 more crewmen. Since the ship sailed from California, there have been 9 fires on board, and the SOS movement continues to gain strength and momentum. Some old salts now privately admit that the USS Coral Sea may <u>never</u> be able to fulfill its original mission, and may just become an aborted training cruise. The SOS sailors are now in touch with the crews of the USS Hancock and USS Ranger, aircraft carriers undergoing repairs before their return to Vietnam early in 1972.

But the most encouragement the SOS crewmen have received yet was a letter from GIs in Vietnam who had heard of their movement. "All we can do," the letter said,"is stop a squad or platoon from going out. But you guys can stop a whole big mother-raping aircraft carrier. Right On!!"

<u>BULLETIN</u>: Unconfirmed reports indicate the USS Constellation is headed home. The ship, originally scheduled for a 9-month stay on Yankee Station, has only been out 2 months. The Connie too, has been plagued with "accidents", demonstrations, and dissent.



DRUG DETENTION

"How can you believe a place like that is going to help you when they let a man who is sweating like crazy and running a high fever, die in front of them?" a GI from the 542nd here in Long Binh asked.

He was talking about TC Hill, the drug detention center located 12 miles north of Saigon. And he was also talking about his former unit-mate, SP-4 Jeffrey C. Wright, from Flagstaff, Arizona, who died of malaria here.

Wright didn't die in the hospital at TC Hill. He was "drying out" in the post's detention center. Wright's friends say he had gone to sick call several times complaining of a chill and cramps, but the medics sent him away telling him he only had a cold.

"He was walking around here like a skeleton for three or four days," a member of the unit asserted. "Then his urine test came out positive and he was sent to the center at TC Hill."

Periodic urine samples are taken in search of Heroin users, though many men claim they are both an "affront to personal privacy", and frequently inaccurate. Mistakes in diagnosis are common. A Spec 4 said,

"For instance, they picked up a hard-drinking lifer a few weeks ago, and sent him to the center. He couldn't believe it. He had never even smoked pot, let alone heroin, but his test came out positive and he was sent up to TC Hill to dry out."

Wright suspected he had malaria before he went up to TC Hill, but according to men in the unit, "People in the detention center mistook his malaria symptoms for withdrawal pains and refused to take him to the hospital."

Army spokesmen admit the incident occured, but claim "The staff at the drug detention center thought Wright was 'Jonesing' (going into withdrawal). By the time they realized their mistake it was too late. He was dead by the time he reached the hospital."

THE ENDLESS TUNNEL

Time Magazine, in an article on the Indochina War, quoted "an anonymous official in Washington' as saying: "A year ago none of us could see victory. There wasn't a prayer. Now we can see it clearly-like a light at the end of a tunnel."

The date of this article? Sept.28,1953. 19 years ago!!

ASK A MARINE

The December, 1971 issue of Playboy magazine carried this story datelined San Diego:

"The Marine Corps has court-martialed, convicted, and sentenced to two years at hard labor a decorated Vietnam veteran for sexually abusing recruits while serving as drill instructor at a San Diego Marine training camp. The 22-year old Marine Sargeant pleaded guilty to forcing recruits to engage in mass sexual acts while showering, to simulate intercourse in their beds, and to perform other sexual maneuvers that the Corps found inconsistant with either military discipline or regular combat training."

OK, but just exactly which "sexual maneuvers" are consistant with Marine Corps training?

FOR SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

The Army Reserve Magazine, in its Sept.1971 issue, announced:

"The award of the NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL for those members of Reserve Component units called to active duty in the New York area during the postal strike."

"VIETNAM VETERANS ARE NO MORE A PROBLEM THAN AN ADDICT WHO GOT TURNED ON AT A PARTY..."

--- Dr. Jerome Jaffe
Nixon's Special Consultant on Drugs

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

Article 138

Any member of the armed forces who believes himself wronged by his commanding officer, and who, upon due application to that commanding officer, is refused redress, may complain to any superior commissioned officer, who shall forward the complaint to the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the officer against whom it is made. The officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction shall examine into the complaint and take proper measures for redressing the wrong complained of; and he shall, as soon as possible, send to the Secretary concerned a true statement of that complaint, with the proceedings had thereon.

Over There

BOOTS, JUNGLE, O.D., TWO EACH.

AN ESSAY

They tell you to get a haircut, trim your mustache, give you a few medals, and read a perfunctory thank-you note. Forty hours later you get your shower, ETS pay, steak dinner, and a fresh set of dress greens. "Thank you, goodbye, we're proud of you."

Then what? Maybe you take your boots home with you. More than anything else they tell your story--where you've been, what you have seen, how much there is to forget.

Before you left, your buddys asked "How ya gonna act?" Maybe you get a job, go to school, drink or smoke too much, or just leave your room. Everything's normal again. Right. You're back in the world. A lot of people think you were a fool, some want to buy you a beer, but most of all, they're uneasy around you.

For a year you don't say anything. But every time you open your closet your boots are staring at you and asking "How ya gonna act?" You're alone. Oh, you're back on the job, or in school, you've got friends, you are making some money, but you're alone. The newsmen, the politicians, the kids with all the answers, they don't know. They weren't there. Well, at least your crountry is proud of you. You've got this mimeographed letter that says so.

Then you hear that some guys are going down to Washington. Not students or carryovers from the civil rights days, but guys just like you. You wonder what the angle is. There isn't any. Just a lot of guys who are alone, going to school, working drinking or smoking too much, or locked into their wheelchairs.

A year ago you put the boots, jungle fatigues, and boony cap away. Since then you've been a stranger, a part of nothing. Now once again you get your gear together. You put those boots on. They're part of you. They're what you know, what you've become...

You're home now and Washington was a long time ago. A thing most Americans want to forget.

For a while you were part of something. You were with people who knew. But what good was it? The 101st is back in the Ashau, and guys are still coming home in rubber bags. You're a young man, but for a moment you feel like this was your last hurrah.

Then you think of the guys. The ones with wheelchairs and steel arms, the ones with purple hearts, bronze and silver stars, the guys who "hacked it". Their hair is longer, some have beards, but it won't hide who they are. No, this is one time, America, you can't write them off because of long hair and beards. You've known these guys for a lifetime. You clenched a fist and the history of that year and the time after thank you, goodbye, we're proud of you was told. It's time you listened, America. There are thousands of us walking and hobbling around. You can't avoid us because we're no longer faceless...we're different. You see, we've got those boots in our closets.

MASSACHUSETTS MEN MUST GO TO VIETNAM SINCE PRESIDENT "FIGHTS THE WAR"

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.--A suit by the state of Massachusetts to prevent its citizens from being ordered to fight in undeclared wars was thrown out by a U. S. District Court at the end of June.

The suit had been filed reluctantly by the State Attorney General after Massachusetts voters passed a referendum last fall making the drafting of its citizens to fight in an undeclared war illegal.

The judge threw out the law on the grounds that since the Constitution requires that the Congress declares wars and "the President fights them", the judge asserted, any illegal presidential war-making without congressional authorization could only be curbed by Congress itself and couldn't be decided by the courts.

an eastlake POME

Pull down those presidents
That are at war.
We are not at war.
Let the presidents who are at War
Kill each other.
Let's let the congressmen
who voted 80 billion dollars
For war
Go without food
And clothing
And let them kill
Each other
Too.
Give them big cheap
Steel knives
To make it
Easier
To cut
Each other's balls off
So that the war will not be passed
Down from generation
To generation
Forever.

GAY VETS MEET

A group of Gay members of the VVAW recently met together at the National Gay Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called in order to discuss the problems of Gays both in the military and the veterans' anti-war movement.

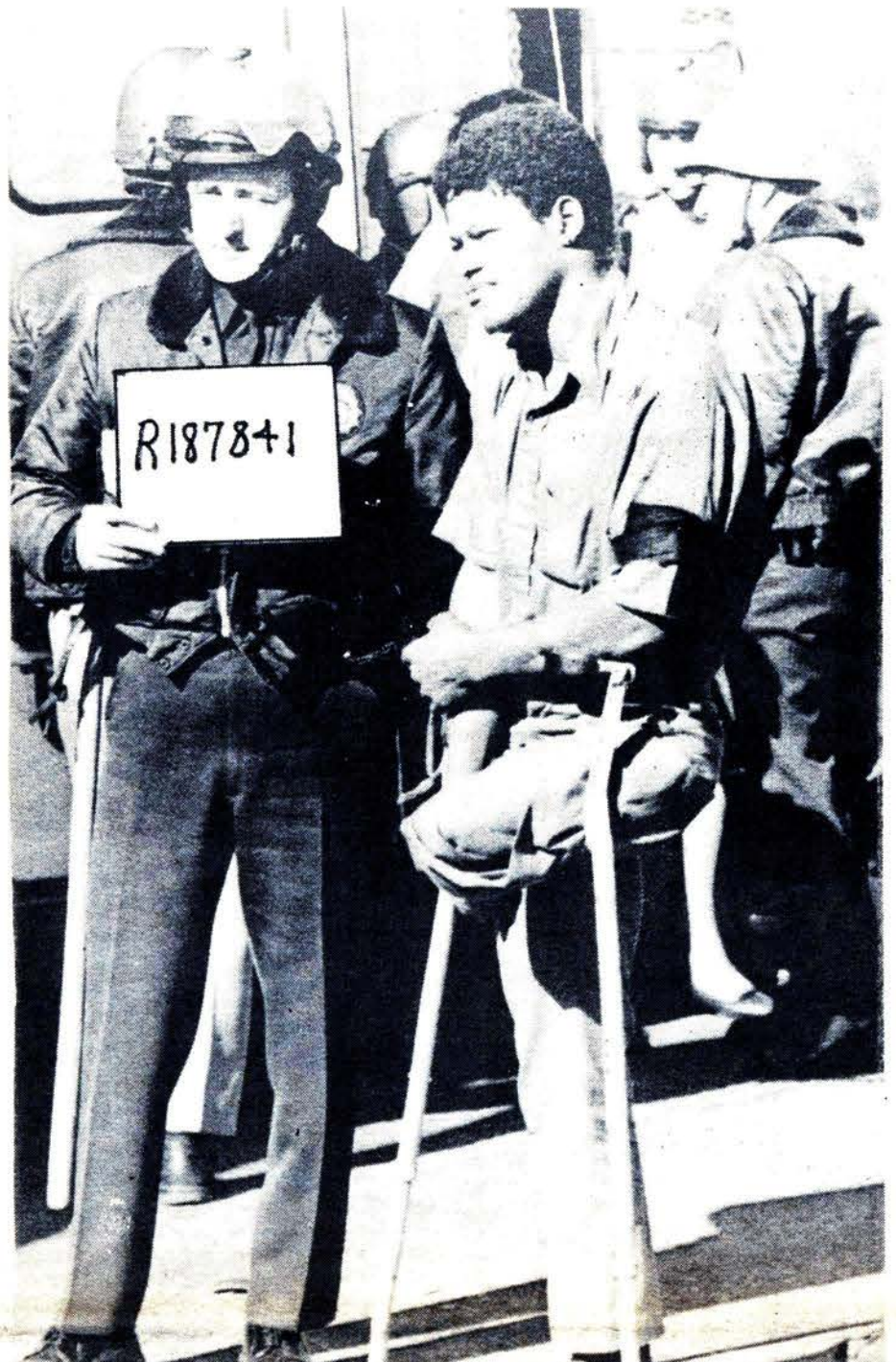
In a statement, the group said: "Gay veterans served side by side with our brothers, but had to endure a special form of psychological oppression. A prime example is basic training, where 'fag baiting' is used to brainwash GIs into a state of mind in which committing an atrocity is proof of manliness. As Gay Vietnam Veterans we see the military as based not only on racism, but on sexism and anti-Gay paranoia as well. The oppression that a Gay soldier experiences leads him to skag just as surely as his realization of the injustice of the war. "

The ad-hoc Gay caucus is planning an investigation of military anti-Gay attitudes and persecution to be held in conjunction with national Gay Pride Week in Washington, D.C., in June, 1972. They seek the aid of all veterans in obtaining testimony and information for the hearings.

The Gay veteran's problem can be summed up by one vet's statement: "I got a medal for killing two men and a dishonorable discharge for loving one."

If you have testimony or questions, contact Vince Muscari VVAW, 25 W. 26th Street, N.Y.C., 10010.

VETE
DAY



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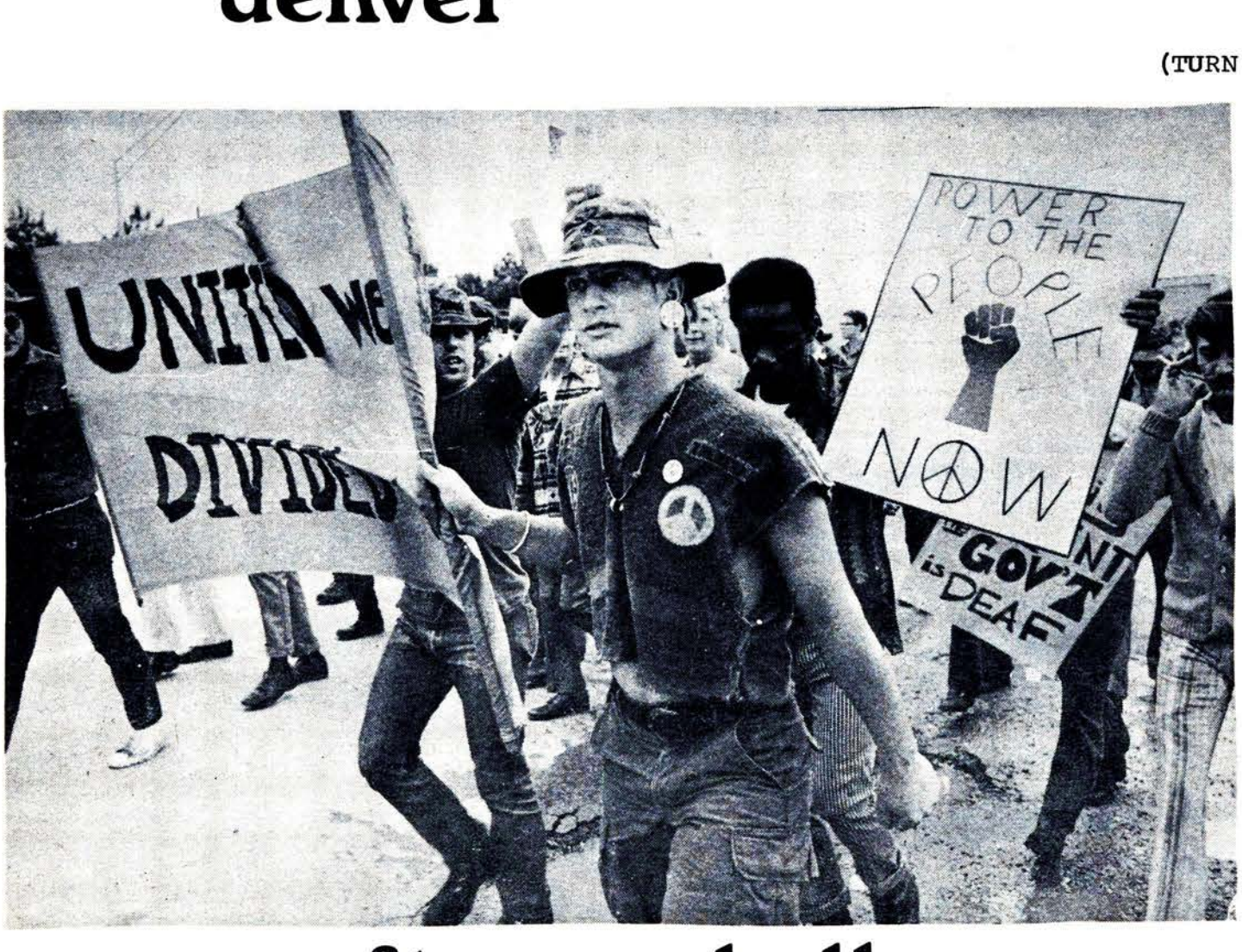

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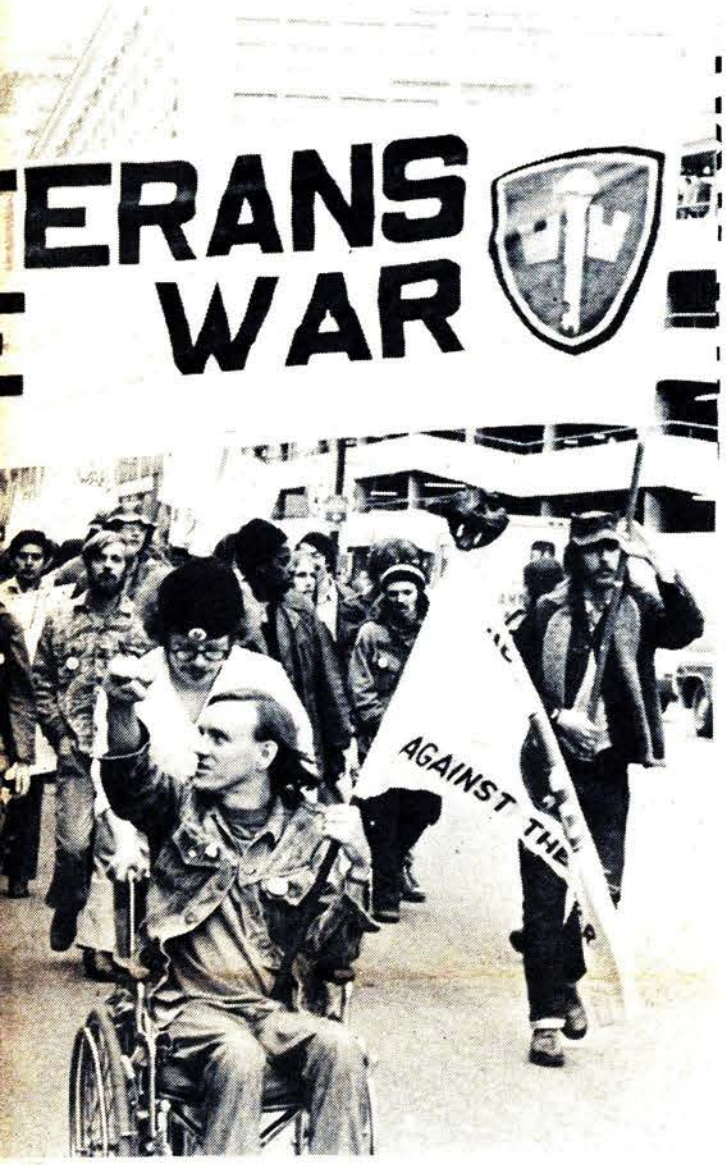
RANS 1971



LL VETS DAY ACTIONS)

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new york

albuquerque

new orleans

Odyssey, cont.

tivities, especially our participation in the conference, while passing himself off as an American draft resister. One of the guys told him flat out that he "looked, acted, and smelled like an agent." He left abruptly. I followed, and watched him get into a police car and drive away. From then on it was pure "Keystone Cops." Usually it was a guy (sometimes actually wearing a trenchcoat!), but twice we were followed by a woman. On the train from London to Paris, one really obvious guy tried to take our picture. We responded by all getting out our cameras and crowding around his compartment to take his. In Paris, we were all taken into custody by French police and "unidentified U.S. officials" for waving to Madam Binh as she arrived at the Peace Talks to present the 7-Point Plan. Three of our group were taken to jail, but later released. No charges of course. At a press conference in Rome, a man who was known as an agent was pointed out to us. He supposedly represents, "Radio Free Europe" which has recently been exposed as a C.I.A. front. We made a little sign saying, "Welcome C.I.A." and showed it to him. He left. Other than Paris and U.S. customs at J.F.K., no physical action was taken against us by the agents--and to be truthful, they provided us with hours of comic relief, which helped ease the tension of a pretty serious trip.

Next to our meetings with the Indochina delegations, our most important contacts were those made with the European people. We were all surprised by the amount of concern they showed about a war that only very indirectly effects them.

In Norway, the students <u>and</u> the workers are actively engaged in opposing U.S. involvement in SE Asia. For example, in Oslo the student-worker's club holds regular seminars on the war, with good attendance and participation

The anti-war movement is also strong in England, with current emphasis there being support of the active duty American GIs stationed around London. Recently, one of the GI leaders, Captain Culver, was court-martialed for helping deliver an anti-war petition to the U.S. embassy.

The French movement, which used to be very together, has pratically ceased to exist as an effective force. They have been so fractionalized by Maoists, anarchists, Trotskytes, Marxist-Leninists, etc. that any unified action seems impossible. Most students and workers seem to be opposed to the war, but are more concerned about ideological infighting than anything else.

Surprisingly enough, the Russians have a great deal of concern about the Indochina War. During a tour of the Kremlin, we met a traveling troupe of drama students who sang a song for us from a skit they produced called, "Hands off Vietnam." To the bemused amazement of dozens of Soviet tourists and Russian guards, we responded by singing Country Joe's "I-Fell-Like-I'm Fixin'-To-Die-Rag." And although it was apparent that a lot of the USSR "anti-Vietnam War" sentiment is government manipulated, the young people (and others too) have opinions that are obviously not based on "the party line", but on personal moral and humanitarian principles.

The strongest and best-organized anti-war groups we met were in Italy. The movement is centered around the Italian-Vietnam Committee, a coalition of communists, socialists, Christian-Democrats, and other groups--and has very strong support from organized labor. The solid foundation of this movement seems to be the partisans from WWII. These people know what war is, they know what atrocities are, they know how it is to live in an occupied country. They remember the American military fondly, for it was through the mutual efforts of the allies and the Italian resistance that Facism was finally overthrown. But the average middle-aged Italian is now confused about the U.S. They see our involvement in S.E. Asia as a direct parallel to the Nazi occupation of Italy. And many feel that the U.S. is now employing the same kind of Fascist tactics it fought so hard against in WWII. They want to believe that Americans are good people, but they see U.S. intervention in Indochina as a direct contradiction to that belief. When we explained to the Italians that over 70% of the American people want the war to be over, they were relieved, but perplexed. "If your country is a democracy," they asked, "then why isn't the war over?" This was one of many questions we couldn't answer. Another question frequently asked was, "How, in the light of the recently-revealed 'Pentagon Papers', can Nixon continue to promote and support the war?" The message we tried to give everyone was that the Indochina War was not the American <u>people's</u> war, but the American <u>government's</u> war. We tried to explain how our profit-mad, conscious-less corporate war machine had taken over U.S. foreign policy in S.E. Asia, but we confessed we were at a loss to provide any quick solutions. Wherever we went in Italy, from Rome to Florence, to the small industrial town of Prato, we were well received.

And that goes pretty much for the entire trip. The only overt hostility we encountered was from American tourists. A Shell Oil executive and his wife told us in the Moscow metro that we were "the kind of scum we came here to get away from."

We were refused service at Peppy's Pizza Pub in Oslo, run by an American named Lou Jordan, because we were "dirty and uncouth". A woman from Florida on tour with the "Farmer to Farmer" program in Russia, called us "communist dupes" in the dining room of the Hotel Ukraine (she was wearing a gold Republican elephant pin and a giant rhinestone American flag pin). Most U.S. citizens who attended our press conference or meetings refused to believe we were all vets. The American tourists returning from Moscow on our flight were so obnoxious that we finally concluded they were a part of a C.I.A./American Legion/V.F.W./Plot to sabotage the cultural exchange program.

We've been back less than two weeks now, and we're still assimilating the events and effects of the trip. Why did we go? Because we were asked, and we felt that we had a message on behalf of American for the Europeans. What did we accomplish? We don't know. We hope we destroyed some myths about the motivations for, and kind of methods employed, in the war. We hope we conveyed to many people the spirit of social revolution burning in this country. And we hope we had some effect on bringing some foreign pressure to bear on the Nixon administration to end the war immediately.

How well we attained these objectives will probably never be known, for our trip was only a tiny diplomatic effort on behalf of the movement in America. If we can base our success or failure on invitations from other countries, then we did well. To date we have been approached by eight other nations, asking that we bring our message to them. But it could hardly be said that we are flushed with victory, since the war goes on.

Perhaps the most important point we have made is to help prove that concerned and dedicated people in the movement, can and do have a role, however small, in helping shape world opinion. Many have gone before us, and the only precedent we set was that of being the first contingent of veterans of an ongoing war to publically denounce that war on an international scale. It seemed the very least we could do.

--- Larry Rottmann

LAOS AIR WAR

In December 1970, several dozen victims of the fullest automated war of our time were asked to record their memories in drawings. They were Laotian refugees from the devastated Plain des Jarres in northeastern Laos who were at that time living in camps around Vientiane.

Each one reported that while ground fighting had been minimal, his village had been partially or totally destroyed by American Bombing, that anti-personnel, napalm white phosphorous and 500 lb. bombs had caused numerous civilian casualties, and that he had spent much of his time huddling in caves, holes, tunnels or trenches. The refugees were asked to describe their lives under the bombs from the beginning in May, 1964, until Sept., 1969, when CIA-directed Meo tribesmen took them from their villages.

While withdrawing ground troops the current Administration had begun bombing Cambodia, doubled the bombing of Laos, where North Vietnamese soldiers are known to operate, and resumed the bombing of North Vietnam (twice a week since Jan.1). About 2,700,000 tons of bombs have been dropped in the last two and a half years, more than struck Europe, the Pacific theater and Korea combined.

It is the first time in history that bombardment of populated areas *had become* the heart of military policy, with ground armies playing essentially supplemental role: serving as a lure to get enemy soldiers out in the open for the bombers, as in the Laotian invasion; searching for supplies or refugees as in the Ashau Valley or on the Plains des Jarres; defending major towns and bases.

At the current rate, 300,000 more tons will fall before the end of this year, with no end in sight. All indications are that tens--possibly hundreds--of thousands of peasants in Laos and Cambodia are living under these conditions.

--- Fred Branfman

This picture shows the wat in my village. I am 69 years old and have always tried to live with a generous and good heart. I was a novice monk and then after I left the wat I still always tried to build and do good. This wat was started in 1916 and finished in 1930. In 1968, the fourth month, three jets came together dropping bombs. We gathered some things and ran for the holes. Just as we reached the holes the bombs exploded in the yard of the wat. At that time there were two children bringing food on a shoulder pole. They threw their things down and ran for the holes. They almost lost their lives. The planes shot up the place and saw the flames come up and then after an hour and a half left. And the monks tried to save some of the things from the wat but we couldn't because the flames were very strong already. We went to count the holes of the bombs and found that there were 28. The wat was lost completely and the part which was not burned was completely destroyed. Everyone in the village had great sorrow for the wat which we had cared for and honored for so many years. And after that we didn't know if we should build another. If we built again we were afraid that it would be bombed again.

—From a man who wrote about this truthfully.

FIRE MISSION

THE VICTIMS OF THE MAY 4,'70 SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSIONS AT KENT, OHIO, ARE ON TRIAL FOR RIOT, INCITING TO RIOT, AND ASSAULT. THESE VETERANS OF THE TAYLOR HILL FREE FIRE ZONE ARE FACING UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON. SPEAKERS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS OR INQUIRIES TO: KENT STATE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, 402 DODGE ST., KENT, OHIO 44240.

JOBS for VETS

Brothers, there are thousands of jobs and millions of dollars for jobs available under the Emergency Employment Act. This money is for public service type jobs and is available through your local Man Power Center, usually located in your mayor's office. The Veterans Employment Service (at the state employment center where you pick up the unemployment check) should have information on these jobs.

The Emergency Employment Act guidelines state that one third of the jobs should go to Vietnam Era Veterans. There are a lot of people who will rip you off for the jobs that are rightfully yours- demand that one third of the jobs go to Vietnam Vets.

A presidential order requires that a Federal contractor must list all job openings for Veterans for forty-eight hours. This means you have first crack at the jobs.

See the Veteran's employment represenative at the employment center for listing and to put your job requirement on the listing.

Contact your regional or state coordinator for further information.

S.O.S.

Today's Army wants to hook you

The New Soldier

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The New Soldier "reflects in a moving way the seriousness of the young Americans who have done what they can, both in Vietnam and in Washington, to lead our country toward a saner and more rational policy."
Senator J. William Fulbright

This is not a book written by the government, by politicians or the pentagon, or by "think-tank" experts. It is the anguished cry of a small number of young men who were fortunate enough to be able to come home from Indo-China. These are the men who bravely cast down their medals and ribbons on the steps of the Capitol Building in April 1971. In publicly protesting their government's policies in Indo-China, they faced their peers as well as themselves. *The New Soldier* addresses not just America, but countries under arms the world over.

The book includes:

*John Kerry's entire testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
*54 statements by Vietnam Veterans
*136 photographs of the Veterans' demonstration in Washington, D.C.
*56 snapshots by veterans of their Vietnam experiences
*An epilogue by John Kerry explaining "Why *The New Soldier*?"
*Publisher's list price:
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$7.95 hardcover
*8" x 11", 174 pages

Mail order forms to:

YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR
(see page 12)

Please send me____copy(ies) of the paperback edition of **The New Soldier** at the special rate of $3.50 per copy (includes postage)

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☐ I am a Vietnam Veteran

All proceeds from this book—due to the authors and editors—will go to Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

★ ★ ★ ★

FTA

FREE THE ARMY, FLIGHT TO AMERICA,
FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE, FUCK THE ARMY

Southeast Asia is the next stop on the itinerary for the troupe of the FTA Show.

Following on the heels of its triumphant tour of military towns in the United States, capped by its first performance for civilians at Lincoln Center's Philharmonic Hall, the FTA troupe will depart on November 24 for its tour of the Pacific.

The FTA Show will entertain GI's during the Christmas season at bases in Hawaii, the Phillipine Republic, South Korea, Japan, and Okinawa.

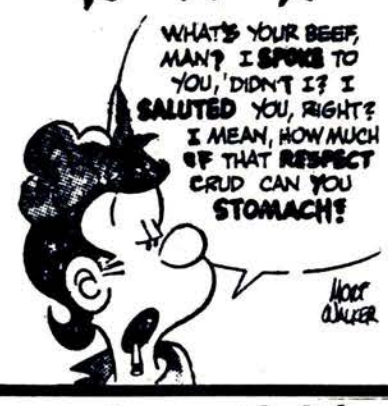
The troupe has made a formal request to President Nixon, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, to permit the show to enter South Vietnam to entertain troops stationed there. In a letter to President Nixon, Paul Lautter, Executive Director of USSF, and the Cast and Crew of the FTA Show said, "We sincerely believe that our show would do more to raise the morale of GI's than almost any other Christmas gift except, perhaps, your ending the war in Southeast Asia by the New Year.

The FTA Show features satirical skits by professional and amateur actors, based on both traditional and GI-movement themes. For instance:

General: Do you have change for a quarter, private?
Private: Yeah.
General: Yeah? Whadda you mean, "Yeah"? Didn't you learn in basic training that you're supposed to answer an officer "Yes, Sir"? I'm going to ask you again and I want to hear that "Sir" loud and clear. Now, do you have change for a quarter, private?
Private: No, Sir!

Despite their appeal to Nixon, the FTA people do not really expect to be allowed into Vietnam. Despite the military-led movement to have FTA replace the Bob Hope Show (DON'T BRING US HOPE, BRING US HOME!), the Pentagon is going ahead with plans to present the Hope Show at the same in-country locations where he was heavily booed last year. Young Vietnam GIs are not interested in the kind of hawkish-sexist bullshit dispensed by Hope, and are planning to express their disgust wherever the show plays.

★ ★ ★



vet's day activities

(FROM CENTERFOLD)

Denver - 83 VVAW members arrested for peacefully attempting to join in Veterans Day parade sponsored by the United Veterans Council. The VVAW had been denied permission from the UVC and the city to parade.

St. Louis - Over 100 VVAW members assembled on the steps of Veterans Memorial in the Municipal Plaza. After a short program, the vets threw all their combat medals into a cardboard box and marched to the post office and mailed the awards to Nixon.

New York - More than 300 VVAW members turned the traditional pro-war celebration by the American Legion at Eisenhower Park into a solemn anti-war rally. The vets spoke from the rostrum, chanted "Thou shalt not kill", during the chaplain's blessing of the war, and laid a symbolic coffin at the nearby war memorial.

S.O.S.

Killeen, Texas - (Fort Hood) 150 VVAW members, 125 of them active duty GIs, were arrested for marching without a permit. A permit for the peace march had been denied by the City Council. Some of those arrested are still in jail.

Chicago - Led by a paralyzed Vietnam vet in his wheelchair, over 500 vets, GIs, and supporters marched down State Street into the heart of the city. In marked contrast to the usual VFW/Legion parades, there were no bands, no marching in step, and no cheers from the bystanders. As the cry "BRING OUR BROTHERS HOME" echoed over and over down the narrow streets, the onlookers stared silently.

Albuquerque - Two dozen VVAW members and wives joined in the traditional Veterans Day ceremonies at the New Mexico State Fair. After joining the vets parade and participating in a flag-raising ceremony, the VVAW leafleted on the fairgrounds for the rest of the day.

San Francisco - 50 VVAW members denied permission to place a wreath at the Presidio militayr cemetary. Armed MPs turned the group away, knocking down a blind marine vet who had come with a Vietnam vet's widow to lay the wreath. A veterans peace float was attacked by the San Francisco police, and six VVAW members were hospitalized with injuries, and two were arrested. One brother remains in serious condition from a blood-clot caused by police nightsticks.

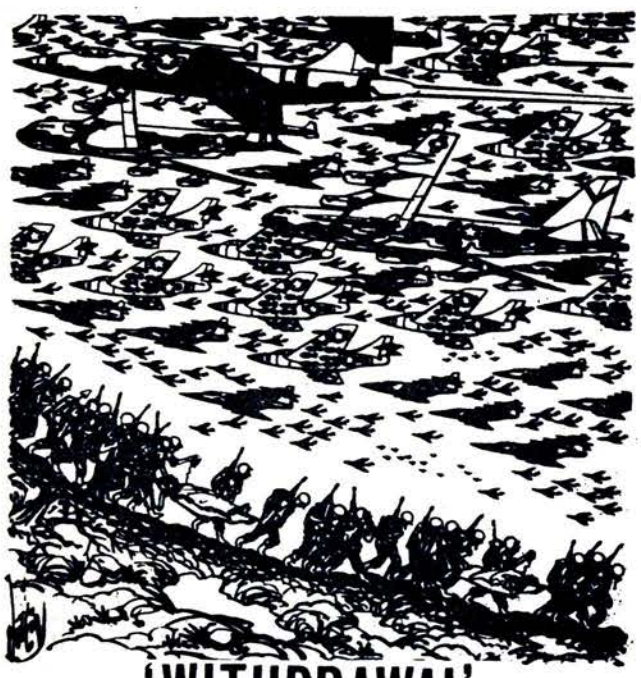
New Orleans - 34 members of the VVAW were arrested for attempting to join the Greater New Orleans Veterans Council parade. The NOVC had refused the VVAW permission, and the city too denied the group a march permit. Over 100 anti-war vets marched anyway, their hands tied to show their dedication to non-violence.

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Over 400 vets, 320 of them active duty GIs from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, staged a peace march on Veterans Day. At a rally, the soldiers formed a GI forum, and were entertained by Country Joe McDonald.

Anniston, Alabama - 100 vets, 75 of them active duty GIs and WACs from Fort McClellan, marched from the fort to a nearby park for a peace rally.

Tuscon - 70 vets and GIs from the Fort Huachaca and Davis Monthan AFB, joined by 600 supporters, marched through rain from Himmel Park to Randolph Park for a peace rally and fair.

Fort Bliss - Over 150 active duty vets participated in a Veterans Day rally on the University of Texas campus, then joined a motorcade to the Fort Bliss National Cemetary. Armed riot troops prevented a planned memorial service inside, so it was held outside the locked gate.



'WITHDRAWAL'

An Editorial

A recent East Coast writer began his column with: "During the last week, more Americans were killed in New York City than in Vietnam...", then went on to praise Nixon's phased withdrawal program. The writer's name and the particular publication are not important for they could be any of the thousands of media barometers who react according to the prescribed administration atmosphere, in this case reflected by Nixon's recent declaration that "...the war is no longer an issue."

Washington is now orchestrating a program of concern for economic policy, as directed by Nixon's "phase I" and "phase II"; plus a statesmanship coup in the form of election year trips to the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Soviet Union.

Nixon's only concession to world concern over the ongoing Indochina war, is his announcement of "increased troop withdrawal", and subsequent promise that by summer 1972 (national political convention time), "all but about 50,000 GIs will be home, and those remaining in Vietnam will all be professional soldiers and volunteers".

And that of course, is exactly what we are afraid of; a war being waged half-way around the world by "professional soldiers and volunteers", a war which is quickly forgotten by the media and the American people (there are still 50,000 U.S. troops in Korea). But lowering the number of US troops doesn't change the immoralitv of the war or necessarily even lower the number of Asian casualties.

For as Al Hubbard recently pointed out while addresssing a meeting of the P. C. P. J. in Chicago, "At this very moment... more than a thousand multi-million dollar machines of war are hovering in many-layered orbits over the towns and villages of Indochina. Giant computers, seismic and acoustic sensors, infrared heatseeking devices, standard and automatic radar, and starlight scopes, are all seeking out any signs of human life.

In the next hour, 200,000 lbs. of napalm, white phosphorous, fragmentation bombs, standard and delayed-action 250, 500, 1,000, and 2,000 pounds high explosive bombs, horizontally exploding ball bearing 'pineapple' anti-personnel bombs, diagonally exploding ball bearing 'guava' anti-personal bombs, un-X-rayable fiberglass pellet anti-personnel bombs, and laser and teleguided missiles and bombs will rain down upon Indochina, part of the more than one quarter million tons that will fall before Christmas.

It is apparent to us that the dropping of 90,000 tons of bombs per month (average monthly tonnage during the LBJ administration was 67,000) is not 'winding down the war'. When there are 130,000 civilian casualties per month, as opposed to 95,000 per month during the Johnson reign, this is not 'winding down the war'. In fact, the increased emphasis on bombing by the Nixon Administration consitutes the most savage and protracted warfare against civilian targets in the history of armed conflict."

Our advanced military technology has made it possible for fewer soldiers to kill more people. The implementation of the "automated battlefield" in Indochina means that with only 50,000 or so troops, we can continue to kill Indochinese at the same, or even greater, numbers, with very few casualties of our own.

And this proposed "protective reaction force" will continue to serve as the experimental unit for testing new and even more devastating weapons of war on the Asian people. Such weapons as the laser guns and missiles now being perfected at Monzano Base in N.M. under the code name "Black Eye"; or the terrible "Explosive Mist", an aerosol bomb that sprays a dense fog over a large area, then ignites it with explosive 'shock waves unlike any other bomb'; or the huge new 7,500 lb. "Hamburger" bombs which kill everything for a quarter mile, even the worms in the ground.

We of the VVAW reject the concept of "Vietnamization", which encourages, supplies, and pays Asians to kill other Asians. We do not want to see a residual force of any kind left in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Guam, Okinawa or on "Yankee Station" in the Tonkin Gulf, especially a force of mercenary and consciousless "professionals and volunteers" accountable only to themselves and the president and or CIA. To those of us who have fought in Indochina the war will always be an issue. We will not relegate the war to history nor can we ignore the political and humanitarian lessons we learned from it. We will never forget, and we will not let anyone ever forget. 300 MORE INDOCHINESE DEAD TODAY AMERICA!

a book REVIEW 11

NO VICTORY PARADES:
The Return Of The Vietnam Veteran by Murray Polner
(Holt, Rinehart & Winston)
$5.95 169 pp. April, 1971

There are now nearly as many books on the war in Vietnam as there were Americans at war ten years ago in Vietnam. Most of these books are as irrelevant and academic as the "debates" they allegedly hold on the war in the Pentagon.

NO VICTORY PARADES, like the Winter Soldier Investigation and the week VVAW "occupied" the Mall sweeps aside the cobwebs of this interminable babble like a blast of cold air. The "experts" in this book are all veterans of the war: selected from over 200 former EM and junior officers Korean war vet Murray Polner (a sociologist) interviewed from 1967-1970. As an early VVAW project, it was the first professional, book-length study of the anger, attitudes and personal anguish of the Vietnam vet of the war.

Though somewhat dated--because of the recent dramatic disclosures of drug problems, rampant AWOLs and desertions (one out of every ten EM under the rank of staff sargeant in the army last year: DOD statistics), and unemployment--it still is the best study available. The range of interviews spans "hawks," "doves," and what Polner calls the "haunted". As the interviews show, all feel betrayed.

Polner's particular contribution is to try to put all this into perspective. As an indication of how perceptive is his thought, here is one selection: "Many of the (vets) had come from nothing to nothing, in a war they later discovered had not one single idea they could grasp...and be ready to die for. Vietnam was their fantasy world, but the reality was their return to America."

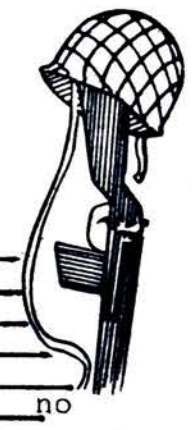
Be it noted also that Murray Polner, nearly four years ago, probably single-handedly created the phrase "the new veteran." No Victory Parades is its own recommendation.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

25 West 26th St., N.Y.,N.Y. 10010

☐ I am a Vietnam Veteran and I would like to join your group.
☐ I am a concerned citizen and enclose $_____ to support your program.

Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____ Zip_____
Area code & phone#_____
Vietnam service: ____yes ____no
Active duty: ____yes ____no
Service #:_____
Are you a new member? ____yes ____no
Is this a change of address?
____yes ____no
I enclose $_____ to help pay the costs of the 1st CASUALTY.



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MARK AMSTERDAM
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SOS

What if they gave a war, and the Coral Sea, the Enterprise, the Ranger, the Oriskany, the Hancock, the Constellation, the Midway . . . and all the rest just didn't come?

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC.

1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops from Indochina. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Indochina.

2. To demand Congress enact legislation for the immediate termination of all funds being utilized by the United States government, its allies and the Central Intelligence Agency to support their illegal operations in Latin America, Africa, China, Europe, and the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

3. To demonstrate that our military tactics dehumanize soldiers and civilians, and to make clear the United States government is prosecuting an illegal, unjust and immoral war in Indochina.

4. To show Americans that their society is structured by a racism which lets us view all non-whites as less than human. This racism pushes our minorities through inferior schools and into the combat arms. Thus, we send our minorities off to die in disproportionately high numbers while we kill Asians indiscriminately. We demand that the military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

5. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. We demand that the United States government, in its war in Indochina, affirm the principles of Nuremberg. As former GI's, we recognize the responsibility of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

6. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women be afforded the rights as citizens that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied them by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that servicemen and women are treated as less-than-first-class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

7. To support all military personnel refusing to serve in wars of aggression at home and abroad. We demand Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation with full amnesty to those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. We support all persons refusing to be drafted.

8. To demand immediate legislation to provide proper care and services for all veterans in V.A. hospitals; to make available job training and placement for every returning veteran; and to provide the funds and means necessary for their educational and vocational endeavors.

9. To affirm that the membership is not only concerned with ending this war, but changing the domestic social, political, and economic institutions that have caused and permitted the continuance of war.

WAR XMAS NUMBER 11!

Four major week-long VVAW demonstrations are planned for the holidays. Thousands of vets will assemble at Valley Forge, Killeen, Texas (Ft. Hood), Chicago, and in San Francisco to fast, donate blood, and otherwise register their resolve to continue pressuring the govt. for total and immediate US withdrawal from all of Indochina, including complete cessation of the air war. For details on the actions, which begin Xmas eve with the simultaneous defoliating of Xmas trees and the burning of war toys, contact your regional or state coordinator. All actions will run concurrently through New Year's Eve. BE THERE!

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